

NEW HOST RECORDS AND BEHAVIOR OBSERVATIONS  
ON FLORIDA CERAMBYCIDAE

MICHAEL C. THOMAS  
2867 NE 7th St. Apt. D  
Ocala, FL 32670

## ABSTRACT

*Stenodontes dasytomus dasytomus* (Say) is recorded from *Casuarina equisetifolia* Forst. and *Bursera simaruba* (L.) Sarg., and *Eburia stigma* (Olivier) from a hardwood for the first time. Observations of *Derancistrus scabrosus* (Gahan) indicate it may be diurnal.

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*Stenodontes dasytomus dasytomus* (Say)

This large prionid attacks a wide range of hardwood trees (Craighead 1950, Linsley 1962, and Baker 1972) and is sometimes of economic importance. In addition to previously listed tree hosts for this beetle, it attacks at least 2 of the tropical hardwoods found in southern Florida.

In Vero Beach, Indian River County, 3 characteristic exit holes of *S. d. dasytomus* were discovered in a dead portion of a green stump of Australian pine (*Casuarina equisetifolia* Forst.) in May 1975, and a dead but intact adult was found in one of the burrows. Adults also were taken from under the bark of a *Casuarina* sp. in West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, in April, and exit holes have been observed several times in dead Australian pines. The presence of *S. d. dasytomus* in Australian pines, actually deciduous trees despite their common name, should be of interest since the trees, along with several other exotics, are rapidly becoming ". . . a most serious problem in the preservation of native vegetation in South Florida" (Craighead 1971).

Adults, larvae, and pupae of *S. d. dasytomus* have been taken in rotten logs at Matheson Hammock, Dade County. Although most of the logs were too decayed to permit identification, the distinctive, frass-filled burrows of the larvae of this species were found in a small log of gumbo-limbo, *Bursera simaruba* (L.) Sarg., in May 1975. Also, an adult female was taken from under the bark of a gumbo-limbo log on upper Key Largo, Monroe County, on 30 May, 1976. This is another new host record.

*Eburia stigma* (Olivier)  
(Fig. 1)

Linsley (1962) lists only *Pinus caribaea* Morelet as a host for this distinctive species. Long and Lakela (1971) have said that *P. caribaea* does not occur in Florida, the previous records representing misidentifications of *P. elliotti* var. *densa* Little and Dorman. On upper Key Largo on 3 April 1976, I dug a single cerambycid pupa out of the stump of a hardwood tree, possibly mastic, *Mastichodendron foetidissimum* (Jacq.) Cronquist. When the adult emerged on 18 April 1976, it was determined to be *E. stigma*. This is the first record of *E. stigma* breeding in a hardwood.

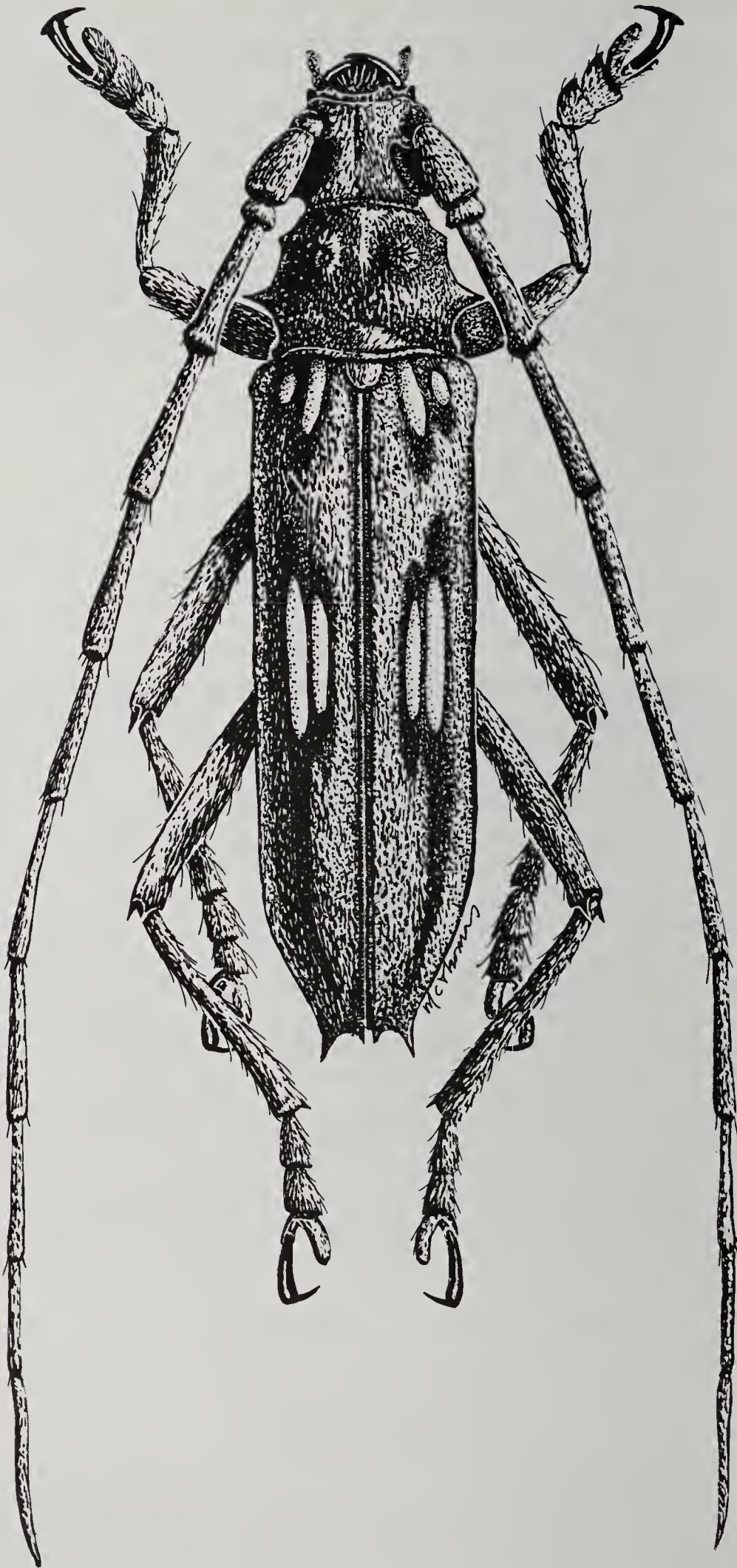


Fig. 1. Habitus of *Eburia stigma* (Olivier), from Key Largo, Florida.

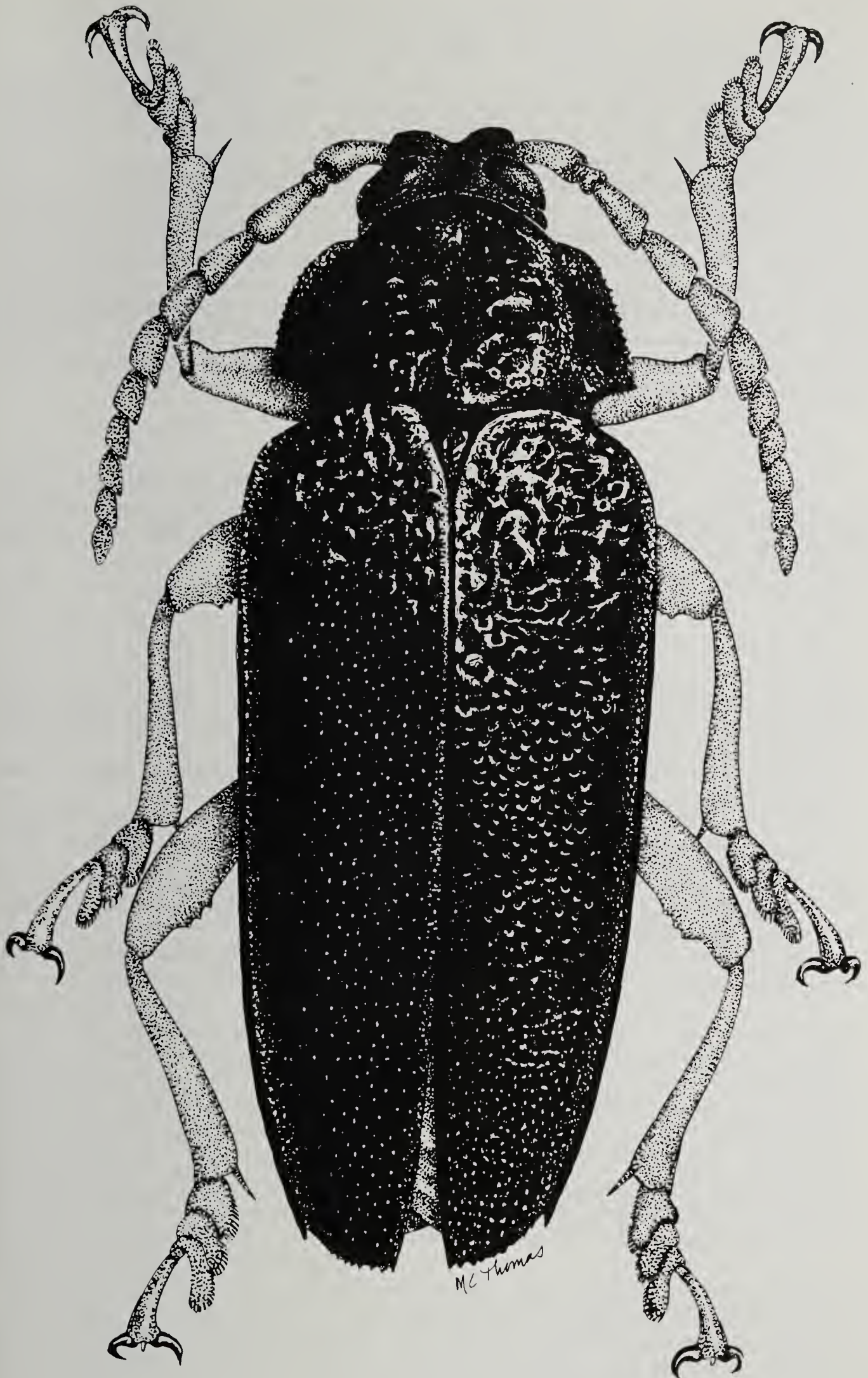


Fig. 2. Habitus of *Derancistrus scabrosus* (Gahan), from Key Largo, Florida.

*Derancistrus scabrosus* (Gahan)  
(Fig. 2)

This species is rarely collected, at least in southern Florida, the only part of the United States in which it occurs, and apparently nothing of its habits have been reported. Howard Frank and I took 2 specimens of this prionid on upper Key Largo on 30 May 1976, and observations indicate that this beetle may be diurnal.

One specimen was first observed crawling very rapidly along the trunk of a small, dead tree during the hottest part of the day. The beetle's black body and bright orange-red legs and antennae, which vibrated constantly as it crawled, made it quite conspicuous. It took flight instantly when the trunk was inadvertently jarred, alighting a short distance away. It was almost buprestid-like in the rapidity of its motions and its willingness to take wing. A second specimen was discovered later in the day, which in the meantime had become quite overcast. The beetle was found clinging to the underside of a broad leaf of a large solanaceous weed and was easily approached and hand-picked from the plant.

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